

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 12, 13, 16 and 24, and amend the claims to read as set forth in the following listing of the claims. The status of each claim is set forth in the listing of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A carpet comprising:

a layer of tufting;

a primary backing layer receiving tufting of the tufting layer;

a breathable membrane impervious to liquid, and a further abrasion-protective backing layer for protecting the membrane from abrasion, the membrane being located between the primary layer and the further backing layer, and wherein both the tufting layer and the primary backing layer are permeable to water vapor;

a breathable stabilizing layer in contact with the breathable membrane for dimensional stability of the membrane and the carpet;

wherein the further abrasion-protective backing layer comprises an apertured film laminated to the membrane on a side thereof opposite the tufting layer; and

wherein the further abrasion-protective backing layer is composed of breathable material disposed on a side of the membrane opposite the tufting layer for allowing transport of water vapor through the carpet from a floor covered by the carpet while protecting the membrane from abrasion caused by contact of the carpet with the floor.

2. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 1, wherein the stabilizing layer consists essentially of interconnected yarns or fibers, plastic netting, or a grid of plastic.

3. (Original) A carpet according to claim 2, wherein the stabilizing layer comprises interconnected yarns having the form of cross-laid scrim or woven fibers.

4. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 2, further comprising an adhesive disposed between the primary layer and the membrane.

5. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 4, wherein the adhesive is a layer fabricated as a water based adhesive emulsion.

6. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 1, further comprising an adhesive disposed between the primary layer and the membrane.

7. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 6, wherein the adhesive is a layer fabricated as a water based adhesive emulsion.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 2, wherein the stabilizing layer comprises interconnected yarns having the form of cross-laid scrim, or interconnected fibers that are woven or nonwoven fibers.

10. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 2, further comprising an adhesive disposed between the primary layer and the stabilizing layer.

11. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 10, wherein the adhesive is a layer fabricated as a water based adhesive emulsion.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 1, wherein the stabilizing layer comprises interconnected yarns having the form of cross-laid scrim, or interconnected fibers that are woven or nonwoven fibers.

15. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 14 wherein said further backing layer is a synthetic material, a polymeric material, or a natural material.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 1 wherein the breathable membrane has a resistance to liquid penetration under a pressure of 0.5 to 2.0 PSI for challenge liquids with surface tensions of 22.3 - 72.8 dynes/cm at 20 degrees C by Test method ASTM 903, and wherein the breathable membrane has a moisture vapor transmission rate of water through the membrane in a range of 50 - 2000 grams / square meter / 24 hours by Test Method ASTM E96 , Up-Cup Method with ambient conditions of 23 degrees C and a Relative Humidity of 50%.

18. (Previously presented) A carpet comprising:

a layer of tufting;

a primary backing layer receiving tufting of the tufting layer;

a breathable membrane impervious to liquid, the membrane being located on a side of the primary backing layer opposite the tufting layer, and wherein both the tufting layer and the primary backing layer are permeable to water vapor; and

a further backing layer comprising a breathable apertured film for protecting the membrane from abrasion, the further backing layer being disposed on a side of the membrane opposite the primary backing layer for allowing transport of water vapor through the carpet from a floor covered by the carpet while protecting the membrane from abrasion caused by contact of the carpet with the floor.

19. (Original) A carpet according to claim 18 wherein the breathable membrane is laminated to the primary backing layer.

20. (Original) A carpet according to claim 18 further comprising an adhesive disposed between the primary backing layer and the breathable membrane for securing the breathable membrane to the primary backing layer.

21. (Original) A carpet according to claim 18 further comprising a stabilizing layer located between said primary backing layer and said breathable membrane for dimensional stability of the carpet, wherein the stabilizing layer consists essentially of interconnected yarns or fibers, plastic netting, or a grid of plastic.

22. (Original) A carpet according to claim 21 wherein the stabilizing layer comprises interconnected yarns having the form of cross-laid scrim, or interconnected fibers that are woven or nonwoven fibers.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)